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Epac as a novel regulator of airway smooth muscle phenotype and function

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Acknowledgments

I always thought that writing the acknowledgements will be the easiest and most relaxing thing of the whole PhD thesis. I was wrong. Infact, I have to confess that actually this piece took me more time than writing chapter 9. Although the main meaning of this section is to say thanks, I realized that this is also the only chance a PhD student has to tell a bit more about him/herself, to show that, besides the 40+ weekly hours spent on working, the sweat and the frustration, he/she had also friends and hobbies to fill up his/her life. When I started my PhD, I thought 4 years would be an extremely long time to stay away from my family and friends, confined in a small city of The Netherlands I had never heard about before. Again, I was wrong. During the last 4 years, I challenged my personal limits in many ways, I achieved important aims, I expanded my geographic, social and scientific knowledge and I had fun, but all these things would not have been realized without the contribution of the wonderful people I met, who made this experience the most extraordinary to me so far.

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Sara, Groningen 2010